

# Understanding the Human Sense of Humour (for aliens)

So you've arrived in orbit over Planet Earth and you're still not sure how the human "sense of humour" works? Worried about miscommunication and misunderstanding where "jokes" are concerned? You've come to the right place!

Here comes everything you need to know about why humans make jokes, how jokes work and why they started in the first place.

Firstly let's look at the rational explanation of jokes.

A perfectly logical mind tests its hypotheses and discards the thoughts which are proven to be nonsense. The perfectly logical mind keeps every idea which can be proven to be correct and consistent but deletes ideas which collapse under scrutiny.

Humans, on the other hand, like to keep a store of illogical thoughts and ideas and string them together to make little sequences of nonsense. These are called jokes or comedy. It's a form of art made from recycled materials. Like a junk sculpture or those weird dioramas which your hive brother Fxnixx makes from his discarded yearly exoskeletons. The humans recycle their absurdity.

But what is the usage of these collections of rubbish, these pataphysical constructions, these "comedies"?

Humans will tell you that comedy is a form of art and a form of entertainment, much like your home planet's leisure activity of watching paint dry. The humans are able to clarify the right way to do things by enjoying their hapless comedians doing everything the wrong way. So comedy is an art which is also instructional. Humans watch clowns and learn important lessons such as never drive an exploding car while wearing an animated wig or never get your elasticated trouser suspender braces caught in a revolving door while tipping your inappropriately tiny hat to a pretty lady.

All very useful lessons in life we are sure. But what were the first jokes ever?

Our research shows that the earliest joke was probably made by proto-human apes who pointed and screeched when one of their chums slipped over in some mud while trying to steal some soft squashy fruit from a fellow proto human who, in turn, tripped and fell face first into the soft fruit and farted. This experience may have started the process of evolution which led eventually to the typical behaviour of human presidential candidates in an election year. We think we can trace the same sort of characteristics throughout human history.

In the life of an individual human the first joke they experience will probably be the fear that their mummy has gone away and then the delight that their mummy has suddenly reappeared. "Be-Bo!" she exclaims, teasingly. So the child learns that mummy can go away but can also return, just as the proto-human ape learns about the slippery slope one is on when committing one's first theft of squashy fruit. (See what I did there?)

During the history of human civilization jokes became more sophisticated. An example from the medieval period in Europe is as follows:

Young fool to old fool: "Prithee, Nuncle, how dost thou get down off a horse?"

Old fool to young fool: "Why thou empty headed buffoon! Thou dost not get down off a horse! Thou gettest down off a duck!"

In the days of the Victorian Music Hall a performer might introduce his comedy song with a joke. It could be something like this:

"Ladies and Gentlemen I would like to sing a little song entitled She was only a romantic poet's young lady friend but she knew what he metaphor! Thank yew! Thank yew! But I don't know the words of that one so here's one you all know: Daisy Daisy". (He is then pelted with a huge volley of soft squashy fruit, slips over and falls face first into the soft fruit and farts - to rapturous applause)

Nevertheless it is important to remember that jokes can go too far. Don't make the same mistake as the one made by the Pzadomolippnnicon Empire when they first made contact with Earth. In order to facilitate a happy trading relationship with Earth the Pzadomolippnniconians turned up in huge luminous orange spaceships and obliterated all of Earth's most sacred monuments, then waited five minutes and then transmitted "Ha! Ha! Ha! Just kidding folks!"

The Earth people were not amused and trade negotiations did not go well.

You know what they should have done, don't you?

That's right! But the silly buggers forgot to bring the soft squashy fruit.